

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) Apparatus comprising:

a) a self-service kiosk which dispenses articles, currency, or communication services; and

b) within the kiosk,

i) a steerable beam microphone array, having multiple lobes;

ii) means for sampling lobes, and

A) distinguishing the difference between speech content and noise content from sound signals received by each lobe,

B) identifying lobes having a relatively high speech content,

C) identifying lobes having a relatively low noise content, and

D) actuating a lobe having both a relatively high speech content and relatively low noise content.

4. (original) Apparatus according to claim 3, and further comprising:

c) speech recognition means for recognizing speech contained in the lobe actuated.

5. (original) A method, comprising the following steps:

a) maintaining a self-service kiosk which dispenses articles, currency, or communication services;

b) maintaining a beam-steerable microphone array at the self-service kiosk;

c) measuring noise content and speech content of several lobes of the array;

and

- d) selecting a lobe which carries
 - i) larger speech signals than other lobes and
 - ii) smaller noise signals than other lobes.

6. (previously presented) Method according to claim 5, and further comprising the step of:

- e) receiving signals from the lobe selected, and performing speech recognition on the data.